

paycheck—not a government check—is the best escape from the clutches of poverty and the best hope of building a better life.

Unfortunately, the Obama Administration has announced its intention to allow states to opt out of these requirements. I believe Congress must emphatically reject this plan. We must refuse to go down a path that leads us back to a sad and painful time in our history where millions of American families were trapped in a cycle of poverty and dependency. This is the stark choice we have before us today.

The Administration's plan is egregious on process as well as substance. By blatantly going beyond their statutory authority, the Administration's action fits into a growing and disturbing pattern of this President disregarding the law and acting unilaterally to override laws duly enacted by Congress. We cannot stand by and allow the executive branch to trample on the Constitutional authority of this body, which has the sole power to legislate.

Given these concerns, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution of disapproval and reject the Administration's misguided attempt to undermine the hope of prosperity for millions of American families eager to support themselves economically. Mr. Speaker, let us reaffirm the principle that, far more effectively than any government program, work places the American people on the path to self-sufficiency and prosperity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently vote "no" on rollcall vote No. 114 (to prohibit the use of funds for the salaries and expenses of personnel of the Department of Agriculture to provide benefits described in section 1001D(b)(1)(C) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)(1)(C)) to a person or legal entity in excess of \$250,000) when I meant to vote "yes."

I would like to correct for the record that I wanted to vote "yes" on rollcall vote 114.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE R.I.C.E. ACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Reducing food-based Inorganic and Organic Compounds Exposure Act, or the R.I.C.E. Act. This bill, which I am proud to introduce with my colleagues Congressman PALLONE of New Jersey and Congresswoman LOWEY of New York, seeks to require the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to set maximum allowable levels of arsenic in foods that contain rice.

Last year, a Consumer Reports test found concerning levels of arsenic in some juices. Based on that report, I was glad to support Congressman PALLONE's legislation that would

require the FDA to set a maximum allowable level of arsenic and lead in fruit juices. I look forward to our continued work on this issue to protect the public health, which is why we have again partnered on this issue with this legislation. And I am glad to be working with Congresswoman LOWEY, a champion of children's health.

Recently, Consumer Reports completed another test on arsenic in our food supply, this time focusing on rice and rice products. That report found concerning levels of inorganic arsenic in some rice samples—including infant rice cereals and beverages. For example, an adult consuming a single serving of some rice products had the possibility of getting nearly one and a half times the amount of inorganic arsenic that they would consume from an entire day's intake of water. The report also noted that individuals who consume rice have higher arsenic levels than those that did not consume rice.

Another report published in Environmental Health Perspectives earlier this year identified high levels of inorganic arsenic in products containing organic brown rice syrup. The published study noted that the sampled products "may introduce significant concentrations of [inorganic arsenic] to an individual's diet." And, The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences published an article in December 2011 entitled "Rice consumption contributes to arsenic exposure in US women" that highlighted the association between rice consumption and a biomarker of arsenic exposure in women.

Clearly, it is imperative that the FDA act and set standards for acceptable levels of arsenic and other dangerous heavy metals in food products. This bill requires them to set such a level for arsenic in rice and foods containing rice. I intend to continue to work on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CONSUMERS UNION,
September 20, 2012.

Congresswoman ROSA DeLAURO,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN DeLAURO: Consumers Union, the policy and advocacy arm of Consumer Reports, applauds your introduction of legislation to require the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to set standards to help lower the levels of arsenic in rice and rice products.

As you know, yesterday Consumer Reports and the FDA each released important data showing troubling levels of arsenic in rice, which is a major food staple for millions of Americans. Inorganic arsenic—which both studies found in the various rice products examined—has been linked to bladder, lung and other cancers. The consumption of arsenic-containing rice is especially worrisome for infants and young children because of the negative impact arsenic may have on the developing brain.

Rice is not the only food that contains worrisome levels of arsenic. Indeed, in a previous report released earlier this year, Consumer Reports found troubling levels of arsenic in apple and other juices. Yesterday's findings underscore the health risks of arsenic, particularly inorganic arsenic, and how rice is a particularly important source of arsenic exposure for Americans. That's because rice is a crop that is very effective in absorbing arsenic, in part because of the way it is grown in water-flooded conditions and also because it is often grown in areas where arsenical pesticides were once used.

Consumer Reports tested over 200 samples of rice and rice products for arsenic, and we

found significant levels of arsenic across all product categories, everything from organic rice to rice cereal, brown rice, white rice, and rice cakes. FDA tests found similar levels in its examination of more than 200 samples of rice products. FDA Commissioner Hamburg announced her agency would continue to collect and analyze 1,000 more samples by year's end to make a thorough assessment and plan next steps.

We welcome and appreciate the FDA's efforts to prioritize its examination of arsenic in rice. We also believe that a federal standard limiting arsenic in rice and rice products is the best way to minimize consumers' exposure to unsafe levels of arsenic.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical safety issue. We look forward to working with you and other members of Congress to help reduce arsenic levels in food.

Sincerely,

ELLEN BLOOM,
Senior Director, Federal Policy and
Washington Office.
AMI V. GADHIA,
Senior Policy Counsel.

IN HONOR OF THE BOCHASANWASI
SHREE AKSHAR PURUSHOTTAM
MANDIR HOSTING SADGURU
SANT PUJYA KOTHARI SWAMI

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bochasanwasi Shree Akshar Purushottam Mandir in my home of Levittown, Pennsylvania for hosting Sadguru Sant Pujya Kothari Swami later this month for a spiritual evening event during his visit to the United States.

Pujya Kothari Swami, one of the seven most senior sadhus of BAPS, will be visiting the United States to perform the Opening Ceremony of the Satsang Activity Center in neighboring New Jersey. The work done by Pujya Kothari Swami in his missionary work across the country and around the globe is deeply respected and praised by the entire Swaminarayan community.

It is truly an honor for Bucks County to host this important spiritual figure in the Swaminarayan faith.

As my constituents gather together for a night of spiritual enlightenment and community, I join them in welcoming Pujya Kothari Swami and wish him all the best during his time in historic Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

THE EPITOME OF CHARITY— REGINA ROGERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in this day and age when most people think of things in terms of me and mine, there are still a few rare individuals who put others first. Regina Rogers is one of those rare individuals. At an early age, a very important question was engrained into Ms. Rogers' memory, and that question has been the motivation for much of